

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior version, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) A cochlear implant electrode assembly device comprising:
 - an elongate electrode carrier member having a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon and having a first substantially straight configuration selected to allow said member to be inserted into an implantee's cochlea, a second curved configuration wherein said elongate member is curved to match a surface of said cochlea, and at least one partially curved intermediate configuration between said first and second configurations, said elongate member being made of a resiliently flexible first material;
 - a first stiffening element;
 - and at least a second stiffening element;
 - wherein said first stiffening element and said second stiffening element in combination bias said elongate member into said first configuration and further wherein if either the first stiffening element or the second stiffening element is removed from the elongate member, the elongate member adopts said at least one partially curved intermediate configuration.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the elongate member adopts a spiral configuration when in the second configuration.
5. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the elongate member is preformed from a plastics material with memory and is preformed to the second configuration.
6. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the elongate member has a first end that is firstly inserted into the implantee.

7. (Canceled)

8. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the elongate member is formed from a biocompatible material selected from the group comprising a silicone and a polyurethane.

9. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first and second stiffening elements are formed of the same material.

10. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first stiffening element is made of a material that is relatively stiffer than the first material.

11. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 10~~ claim 10, wherein the second stiffening element is relatively stiffer than said first stiffening element.

12. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 11~~ claim 11, wherein the second stiffening element has a greater diameter than the first stiffening element.

13. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein at least the first stiffening element is formed of a bioresorbable material which dissolves or softens on exposure to a fluid.

14. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 13~~ claim 13, wherein the bioresorbable material of said at least first stiffening element is selected from the group comprising polyacrylic acid (PAA), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polylactic acid (PLA) and polyglycolic acid (PGA).

15. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein at least the first stiffening element is formed from a non-bioresorbable material.

16. (Currently Amended) A device of claim 15, wherein at least the first stiffening element is a metallic or plastic stylet.

17. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 16~~ claim 16, wherein the second stiffening element is a metallic or plastic stylet.

18. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 17~~ claim 17, wherein the respective stylets extend through a single lumen in the elongate member.

19. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 17~~ claim 17, wherein one of said stylets can extend through a lumen of the other stylet.

20. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first and/or second stiffening element are formed from a shape memory material.

21. (Presently Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first and second stiffening elements are of different lengths.

22. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first stiffening element is a metallic or metallic alloy stylet, and the second stiffening element is formed of a bioresorbable material which dissolves or softens on exposure to a fluid.

23. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 22~~ claim 22, wherein the bioresorbable material is selected from the group comprising polyacrylic acid (PAA), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polylactic acid (PLA) and polyglycolic acid (PGA).

24. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the device includes an additional layer surrounding the elongate member, the additional layer having a first rate of fluid ingress therethrough and have at least one fluid ingress means formed therein, the rate of fluid ingress through the fluid ingress means being greater than the first rate of fluid ingress through the additional layer.

25. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 24~~ claim 24, wherein the fluid ingress means comprises one or more slits in the additional layer.

26. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein the first stiffening element is a metal or bioresorbable stylet and the second stiffening element is formed from a shape memory material.

27. (Previously Presented) A device of claim 2, wherein at least a portion of an outer surface of the elongate member has a coating of a lubricious material.

28. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 27~~ claim 27, wherein the lubricious material is selected from the group comprising polyacrylic acid (PAA), polyvinyl alcohol (PVA), polylactic acid (PLA) and polyglycolic acid (PGA).

29. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 6~~ claim 6, wherein a resiliently flexible tip member extends forwardly from the first end of the elongate member.

30. (Currently Amended) A device of ~~claim 29~~ claim 29, wherein the tip member has a plurality of metallic particles dispersed therethrough.

31. (Previously Presented) A cochlear implant electrode assembly device comprising:
an elongate electrode carrier member having a plurality of electrodes mounted thereon and having a first configuration selected to allow said member to be inserted into an implantee's cochlea, a second configuration wherein said elongate member is curved to match a surface of said cochlea, and at least one intermediate configuration between said first and second configurations, said elongate member being made of a resiliently flexible first material:

a first stiffening element made of a material relatively stiffer than said first material; and

a second stiffening element that is relatively stiffer than said first stiffening element;

wherein said first stiffening element and said second stiffening element in combination bias said elongate member into said first configuration and further wherein if either the first stiffening element or the second stiffening element is removed from the elongate member, the elongate member adopts said at least one intermediate configuration.